weather conditions in different parts of the country. However, the agriculture sector has been maintaining a long term growth rate over the yeras.

(c) To accelerate the growth in agriculture sector, the Government is implementing various commodity specific development programmes relating to cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute, horticulture crops, livestock etc. Besides, the Government is providing price and market support to the farmers as well as expanding the network of irrigation facilities to more areas etc. In the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set the priorities for doubling food production in next 10 years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Nuclear Technology to Solve Water Scarcity Problem

2672. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA MAHATA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have developed nuclear technology which can derive potable water from the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make use of the technology to check water scarcity problems in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has successfully developed technologies of Multi Stage Flash (MFS) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) for desalination of seawater. The MSF and RO pilot plants set up at BARC were operated to study operational parameters. BARC has designed a 6300 m^3/d combined MSF-RO desalination plant being set up at the Madras Atomic Power station (MAPS), Kalpakkam. The hybrid concept has a number of innovative features aiming towards safe and economic production of fresh water from seawater. The palnt will use small amounts of low pressure steam, seawater and electrical power from MAPS. The fresh water produced from the desalination plant will augment the the water resources at the complex for future needs apart from economic production of process water for MAPS. The plant will provide useful indigenous experience for setting up large size desalination plants in future for conversion of seawater into fresh water to meet the ever increasing demand of water in the coastal water scarce areas. Further under the programme for the development of water resources in Rajasthan, a reverse osmosis plant was designed by BARC and was fabricated and installed under BARC supervision at Sheelgaon village in Barmer district which is producting 30 m^3/d fresh potable water from highly brackish water source.

Uranium Deposits in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

2673. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rich deposits of Uranium have been found in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh and at Gulbarga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional atomic power proposed to be generated from the newly found Uranium deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Uranium deposits have been located at Lambapur-Yellapur and Yellapur-Peddagattu in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. Reserves of about 1650 tonnes of Uranium Oxide with 0.09% of U308 grade have been established at Lambapur and 1800 tonnes of Uranium Oxide with 0.055% U308 grade at Peddagattu. An additional 2300 tonnes is inferred in Yellapur-Peddagattu with an average grade of 0.123% of U308.

On the basis of satellite imagery, ground radiometric studies and gamma-ray measurements, significant uraniferous anomalies have also been located at Gogi in Gulbarga district of Karnataka. The estimation of Reserve in this area is yet to be completed.

(c) Future utilisation of these deposits, would depend on establishment of techno-economic viability of mining thereof and actual mining being taken up.

Y2K Problem

2674. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA : Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of confusion regarding Y2K problem in our country and adequate measures are not being taken to tackle this;

(b) apart from giving ads in media, does DOE have an action plan for taking care of this by helping other sectors of the Government;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor and by when it propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The overall coordination of Y2K problem is being organised through a High Level Empowered Action Force under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission. The composition and Terms of Reference of the Action Force are given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Electronics has been sensitizing various Government Departments, State Administrations and Organisations as well as the private sector about this problem and the need to take steps in time to solve the problem. Industry Associations have also been involved in the process. Nodal Officers have been appointed for each Central Government Department and State Governments. Progress in important sectors is being monitored regularly. A Website "y2k.gov.in" and a Help Desk has been created to provide the information relating to this problem. DOE is working closely with the Y2K High Level Empowered Action Force. DOE has also set up a Y2K Action Group to address and manage related issues pertaining to its own organisations and in the electronic sector.

Chartered Accountants have been required to check for Y2K compliance and give a certificate while auditing financial year 1998-99. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has required companies desirous of listing to make disclosure on Y2K compliance. The expenditure on Y2K compliance shall be treated as revenue expenditure and shall therefore, be tax exempt.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Subject: Constitution of High Level Empowered Action Force on Managing the Impact of Year 2000 Problem in India.

Following is the composition:

1.	Member(A) Planning Commission	Chairman